

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-04 SIG-02 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07
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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - MARCH 21, 1977

1. THE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE
MARCH 21 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING:

2. Q. ANYTHING NEW IN ZAIRE? ANY FURTHER IDENTIFICATION
OF WHO IS DOING WHAT TO WHOM?

A. THE SECOND SHIPMENT OF MATERIEL PURCHASED BY ZAIRE
UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM WILL BE SHIPPED
TODAY VIA A CHARTERED SEABOARD WORLD AIRWAYS BOEING 747.
WE CAN'T, AS YET, PROVIDE A DETAILED LIST OF WHAT WILL
BE INCLUDED, BUT THE BULK OF THE EQUIPMENT, I UNDERSTAND,
IS C-130 SPARE PARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. AND
THE REST OF IT IS RATIONS AND UNIFORMS AND MATERIEL
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SIMILAR TO THAT SHIPPED ON THE FIRST FLIGHT.

3. Q. DO YOU HAVE A PRICE FOR THIS FLIGHT?

A. A VERY TENTATIVE ESTIMATE, IS ABOUT \$600,000. IT IS
LEAVING JFK, NEW YORK.

4. Q. INCLUDING THE COST OF TRANSPORT?

A. I BELIEVE THAT INCLUDES ONLY THE COST OF THE MATERIEL. BUT, AGAIN, UNTIL IT IS FINALLY LOADED AND SENT OFF, I THINK I COULDN'T BE MORE PRECISE THAN THAT.

5. Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS LEAVING?

A. I DON'T.

6. Q. DO YOU KNOW WHY IT IS CHEAPER TO SHIP THIS COMMERCIALLY ON A CHARTER THAN IT IS TO SEND IT ON A MILITARY PLANE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT.

A. I DON'T KNOW. BUT I FEEL SURE THERE IS A GOOD LOGISTICAL REASON FOR IT.

7. Q. I THANK YOU FOR THAT INFORMATION, BUT I DID ASK WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE GROUND IN ZAIRE. HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED YET THE INVADING FORCES?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO WHAT WE SAID ON FRIDAY. THERE WERE REPORTS, OF COURSE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT FORCES HAD RETAKEN KASAJI. I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT. OUR EMBASSY SIMPLY HAS NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM IT POSITIVELY. I HAVE NOTHING ELSE ON THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND THERE OF A MILITARY NATURE.

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8. Q. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PROTESTS TO THIS GOVERNMENT FROM ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE AID THAT WE ARE GIVING TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU?

A. ANY PROTESTS?

8.Q.HAS ANYBODY COMPLAINED THAT THIS IS INTERFERENCE IN AN INTERNAL ZAIRE MATTER?

A. NOT THAT I KNOW OF, NO.

10. Q. THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT, YOU KNOW, MADE THAT ACCUSATION LAST WEEK. I JUST WONDER WHETHER IT HAD BEEN TAKEN UP BY ANYBODY ELSE.

A. NOT THAT I KNOW OF, NO. THERE HAS BEEN A SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST FROM THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS BEING STUDIED. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS

DETAILS OF THE REQUEST AT THIS TIME.

11. Q. WHEN WAS THAT MADE, PLEASE?

A. I DON'T HAVE A TIME ON IT.

12. Q. YOU CAN'T TELL US WHETHER IT INCLUDES
SO-CALLED WEAPONS?

A. I CAN'T TELL YOU. I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE RECEIVED
NOTHING BEYOND WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU.

13. Q. WILL YOU BE IN A POSITION TO LET US KNOW THAT
LATER IN THE DAY? THAT IS A FAIRLY IMPORTANT POINT.

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE WILL GET ANYTHING MORE
ON THAT TODAY OR NOT. ALL I HAVE ON IT NOW, AND
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I DON'T KNOW WHEN I WILL GET MORE OF IT. IT IS
BEING STUDIED.

14. Q. WILL THERE BE CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS
ON THE SUBJECT?

A. I DON'T KNOW, I KNOW THAT CONGRESS IN GENERAL
IS BEING KEPT INFORMED, BUT ON THIS PARTICULAR
POINT, I CAN'T TELL YOU.

15. Q. HAVE WE APPROVED ANY THIRD COUNTRY ARMS TRANSFERS
TO ZAIRE?

A. I'M SORRY?

16. Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT APPROVED
THE TRANSFER OF ARMS PREVIOUSLY TRANSFERRED BY THE
UNITED STATES TO AN INTERMEDIARY, WHO IS THEN GOING
TO RETRANSFER THOSE ARMS TO ZAIRE?

A. I KNOW OF NO SUCH THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS OR
CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO IT.

17. Q. WHO IS STUDYING THE REQUEST FROM ZAIRE?

A. YOU MEAN THE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST?

18. Q. YES.

A. THE DEPARTMENT IS, AND I PRESUME IN CONSULTATION
WITH, OF COURSE, THE WHITE HOUSE, OBVIOUSLY.

19. Q. WOULD IT HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW AT WHAT LEVEL IT WOULD BE APPROVED.
THE PRESIDENT APPROVED, AS YOU KNOW, THE FIRST TWO
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PLANELOADS.

20. WHAT IS THIS MATERIEL AGAIN.

A. I'M SORRY, I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY DETAILS ON IT.
I DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS, AND I HAVE NO INDICAION
THAT I AM GOING TO GET THOSE DETAILS TODAY.

21. Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BELIEVE IN ITS
CLOSE STUDY OF THE SITUATION THAT THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT
HAS BEEN MORE OF A DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAN
THE KATANGANS?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE HAVE ASSESSED THE SITUATION
IN THOSE TERMS.

22. YOU DON'T KNOW. OKAY.

A. NO.
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